or recycled plastics to be not less than 20 microns. These rules apply to all the States and Union Territories.

(d) As per the information made available by the karnataka State Pollution Control Board, public notices have been issued to implement the Recycled Plastics Manufacture and Usage Rules, 1999.

**Protection of Similipal Tiger Reserve**

2100. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that protection of Similipal Tiger Reserve in Orissa was to be handed over to the Central Reserve Police Force; if so, the details thereof;

(b) what are the reasons for delay in implementing the same; and

(c) whether Government are also considering any steps for such deployment in other areas in the country, including Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Ministry of Environment and Forests have released funds to the State Government in helping deployment of a dedicated Strike Force comprising of Paramilitary Forces.

(b) Home Ministry has not found it feasible to deploy paramilitary forces for protection of Similipal Tiger Reserve, and has suggested to the State for utilising their own armed police.

(c) The Central Government has taken a policy decision to assist State Government for deployment of Strike Forces in areas affected by insurgency and deteriorating law and order.

**Wild Life conservation**

2101. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKAR DAVE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister announced in the meeting of Indian Board for Wild Life held on 22nd January, 2002 that there is need to reconcile economic growth and development with the wild life conservation and to safeguard the interest of local community, living in and around wild life habitats;

(b) if so, the other matters discussed in the meeting; and

(c) in what manner the State Governments are likely to be benefited, particularly Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) The Indian Board for Wild Life in its meeting held on 21st January, 2002 under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Prime Minister resolved that wild life and forestry should be declared as priority sector for which funds should be earmarked. The Board also resolved for meeting interests of poor and tribals living around protected areas with maximum participation of the affected people. The Wildlife Conservation Strategy 2002 that was adopted in the meeting is given at enclosed Statement. (*See* below)

(c) Effective measures for management and conservation of forests and wildlife by the State Governments including Gujarat would result in substantial environmental and ecological benefits.

**Statement**

*Wildlife Conservation Strategy*

The details of the Wildlife Conservation Strategy-2002 adopted by the Indian Board for Wildlife are—

1. Wildlife and forests shall be declared priority sector at the national level for which funds should be earmarked.
2. Law enforcement agencies must ensure that those engaged in poaching, illicit trade in wildlife and wild life products, destruction of their habitat, and such other illegal activities are given quick and deterrent punishment.
3. We should fully tap the potential in wildlife tourism and at the same time take care that it does not have adverse impact in wildlife and protected areas. The revenue earned from increased tourism should be used entirely to augment available resources for conservation.
4. Protecting interests of the poor and tribals living around protected areas should be handled with sensitivity and with maximum participation of the affected people. They should have access to the minor forest produce, in the forest outside of national parks and sanctuaries. Employment and means generation for these people is crucial for maintaining symbiosis between the forests, wildlife and the people. People should be encouraged to take up afforestation and conservation in new areas.

5. While strengthening protective measures against traditional threats to wildlife, we should also respond to newer threats such as toxic chemicals and pesticides.

6. There should be greater governmental as well as societal recognition and support for the many non-governmental organizations engaged in wildlife conservation. Mainstream media to better highlight their activities as also successes of governmental initiative that have worked.

7. Creatively produced Television Programmes on wildlife and ecology are widely appreciated by young and old as seen from the popularity of dedicated T.V. channels like, Discovery, National Geographic and Animal Planet. It proposed that Prasar Bharati and other private channels along with agencies like WWF for Nature should collaborate and increase original Indian Content in different languages on our television.

8. No diversion of forest land for non-forest purposes for critical and ecologically fragile wildlife habitat shall be allowed.

9. Lands falling within 10 km. of the boundaries of National Parks and Sanctuaries should be notified as Eco-fragile zones under section 3(v) of the Environment (Protection) Act and Rule 5 Sub-rule 5(viii) & (x) of the Environment (Protection) Rules.

10. Removal of encroachments and illegal activities from within forestlands and Protected Areas.

11. No commercial monoculture to replace natural forests.

12. The settlement of rights in National Parks and Sanctuaries should not be used to exclude or reduce the areas that are crucial and integral part of the wildlife habitat.

13. More than 2000 vacant posts in the frontline staff of Protected Areas shall be filled immediately and provided basic infrastructure for efficient discharge of duties. Ban on recruitment of staff against vacant post should be lifted on lines with the Police Department. Innovative initiative such as redeployment of surplus employees in other departments, hiring local people on voluntary or honorarium basis, raising donations from business houses and other members of the public in return for a greater role for them in implementing programmes need to be explored.

14. Every protected area should be managed by forest officers trained in wildlife management.

15. Mitigation measures for human-animal conflict and mechanism for crop insurance, as also expeditious disbursements of *ex-gratia* payments should be instituted by States.

16. Forest Commission should be set-up to look into restructuring, reform and strengthening the entire forest set up and affiliated institutions in the country.

17. A working group shall be constituted to monitor implementation of Wildlife Action Plan.

**Pollution in Kolkata**

2102. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have conducted any study on the continuously increasing pollution in Kolkata city;

(b) if so, what steps are proposed to be taken by Government to reduce the pollution levels in this metropolitan city; and

(c) whether Government have allocated any funds to the West Bengal Government for controlling pollution in that city; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BALLU): (a) The Central Pollution Control Board along with the West Bengal State Pollution Control Board is monitoring the ambient air and water quality in Kolkata.

(b) The steps taken by the Government to reduce the pollution levels in Kolkata city include the following:

(1) Effluent and emission standards for industries have been notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 to check pollution.

(2) The Government of West Bengal has evolved a strict industrial locational policy which restricts entry of any new Red category of industry in Kolkata metropolitan area. 235 grossly polluting industries have been identified for priority attention to ensure regulatory compliance. Non-complying units are dealt strictly in accordance with